## REMARKS

### Pending Claims

Claims 1-21 are pending and claims 4-6, 8, 10 and 12 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 9 has been amended to remove an extra colon (:). Claims 13-21 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-3, 7, 9 and 11 are under consideration.

### Item 4: Rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11 and 13-21 for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Scheidt et al. (USP 5,654,902) in view of Kenevsky et al. (USP 6,480,861)

As claims 13-21 have been canceled, the rejection is moot with respect to these claims. As the Action indicates, Scheidt relates to recyclable components and to a "check device for examining such recyclable components" (column 1, lines 7-8). More particularly, Scheidt proposes to solve the problem of examining discarded products or components "by providing each component constituting a product with a memory for storing information data useful for recycling" (column 2, lines 20-22). Thus, a component includes "a check system for checking the condition of the component" (column 2, lines 29-30). For example, as shown in Fig. 1, illustrative components 1 to 5 have respective memory units 2a – 5a which "store information data necessary for evaluation of the component before forwarding to recycling. Such information data can be classified into two types: active data and passive data" (column 2, lines 44-51).

Component systems, such as a television receiver having components of different levels of residual value, are sent to automatic or manual disassembly lines for recovery of valued components and the disassembled recovered components are sorted into groups of components of the same kind or type and possibly are subjected to further quality tests. (Column 5, lines 1-25).

The Action further observes, at pages 2-3:

> Scheidt et al. does not go into any detail concerning the selling and buying process by which the products are exchanged between users or between user and manufacturers.

In fact, Scheidt is altogether silent regarding what use may be made of the recovered components as well as any "selling and buying processing by which the products are "exchanged between users or between user and manufactures."

The Action then relies on Kenevsky, as follows:

> Kenevsky et al. teaches that is known for users to input into a server a request service and a requested price for that service. Kenevsky also teaches that service providers provide requested price for certain service provided.

(Action at page 2)

It is respectfully submitted that Kenevsky is largely misinterpreted by the Examiner.

Kenevsky purports to teach "sophisticated techniques for managing, locating, allocating and ensuring the availability of information resources in a distributed environment. (Column 1, lines 7-9; emphasis added).

For example, the Action addresses problems of the prior art, such as the need to "ensure that the failure of any individual part of the network does not prevent the network, as a whole, from delivering critical services. ...First one must consider the manner in which the application leverages redundant resources so as to decrease the response time of a given service provider when this provider is under load...(Column 1, lines 18-34).

At column 3, lines 58 et seq., Kenevsky is characterized as providing a "dynamic mechanism for managing, organizing and allocating service providers in the operation environment of a computer network (column 3, lines 58-62). Further, an object of Kenevsky is "to apply trade and price mechanisms to a plurality of local resource allocation decisions, and to merge these decisions into resource allocation rules which officially manage service provider usage in large computer networks." (Column 3, lines 66 – column 4, line 3).

Note the definitions of "service provider" and "service requestor":

> "A service provider may refer to a database, a computer program, a person providing services over a compute network, an information resource, or a hardware resource such as a fax machine, a printer, or a data storage drive. A process refers to the manner in which any entity that can request the allocation of a service provider will use that service if it is, indeed, allocated to that entity. A service requestor refers to an entity that may require the use of one or more service providers. Illustrative service requestors include computer programs as well as devices coupled to the computer network for use by individuals requesting services.

(Kenevsky at column 4, lines 20-31)

Column 4, line 38-column 5, line 14, cited in whole or in part by the Action at page 2, characterizes the processing of requests for service providers and the amount that a service

requestor will pay for a given service.

As discussed at column 7, lines 20 et seq., a first service provider 103 in Fig. 1 "may represent a database, a computer program, a person providing services over a computer network, an information resource or a hardware resource such as a fax machine, a printer or a data storage drive." The second and third service providers 104 and 105 relate to similar such resources or data sources.

As should be apparent from the foregoing, Kenevsky does not teach that "service providers provide requested price for certain services provided" (page 3, lines 5-7 of the action) nor is there any logical, much less any obvious (§103) way of employing the teachings of Kenevsky "with the method of recycling/reusing replacement components of Scheidt et al. to "increase environmental friendliness and to further reduce the costs of purchasing replacement parts." These stated objects are altogether foreign to the Kenevsky teachings of managing and allocating "the availability of information resources in a distributed environment" and altogether unrelated to Scheidt et al. which has no teachings relative to "environmental friendliness" or with regard to reducing "the cost of purchasing replacement parts" as asserted at page 3, lines 9-11 of the Action.

Even if the Examiner is correct in the interpretation of Kenevsky, the present invention distinguishes over the prior art. In particular, each of claims 1-3, 7, 9, and 11 includes, " a ·component information database storing components and products using the components so that they correspond to each other" and "an owner information database storing identifiers of customers owning the stored products in the component information database, as potential component providers" are provided or used.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references neither disclose nor suggest these databases. In the present invention, by providing/utilizing these databases, a component provider can be a candidate for providing a component without managing components of a product of his/her own, in other words, without knowing all of the components.

### The Examiner's Standard of "it would have been obviousness.." fails to satisfy the required standard of prima facie obviousness of the combination relied upon MPEP 2143.03

Kenevsky does not relate to components of a product which must be replaced to repair the product nor to the related data regarding that repair and replacement function.

Scheidt et al. does not relate to a "repair order receiving and sending system using a customer's unnecessary assets operated on a repair server..." much less to a "component

providing candidate terminal used by a component providing candidate..." much less to any network linking these together.

Indeed, Scheidt could be used to develop a database of life histories of recoverable/recovered components which are held in a store for reuse at some suitable time by a requestor who purchases same through a conventional transaction, such as in an automobile repair shop. Scheidt sets forth no motivation to automate the function of selection and sale of the replaceable parts -- and Kenevsky, on the other hand, does not deal with any reusable spare parts.

Prima facie obviousness of the combination has not been shown and the rejections based should be withdrawn.

## Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the references of record, taken in any proper combination. There being no other objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
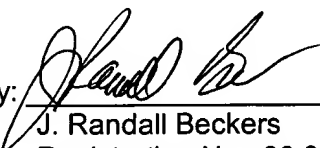
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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